

PAN AMERICAN HIGHWAYS CONGRESS

MESSAGE

FROM

THE PRESIDENT OF THE UNITED STATES

TRANSMITTING

A REPORT BY THE SECRETARY OF STATE CONCERNING A PAN AMERICAN HIGHWAYS CONGRESS, TO MEET AT BUENOS AIRES ON MAY 22, 1925, TOGETHER WITH COPIES OF LETTERS FROM THE ACTING SECRETARY OF COMMERCE AND THE SECRETARY OF AGRICULTURE FURNISHING INFORMATION REGARDING THE CONGRESS AND URGING THE IMPORTANCE OF PARTICIPATION THEREIN BY THE UNITED STATES



JANUARY 22 (calendar day, JANUARY 24), 1925.—Referred to the Committee on Foreign Relations and ordered to be printed

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OFFICE OF THE SECRETARY OF STATE

PAV. AMERICAN HIGHWAYS CONGRESS

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THE PRESIDENT OF THE UNITED STATES

TO THE CONGRESS

A REPORT UPON THE PROGRESS OF THE NATIONAL HIGHWAY SYSTEM DURING THE YEAR 1933. THE NATIONAL HIGHWAY SYSTEM, WHICH WAS ESTABLISHED BY THE NATIONAL HIGHWAY ACT OF 1916, HAS MADE GREAT PROGRESS SINCE THAT TIME. THE TOTAL LENGTH OF THE NATIONAL HIGHWAY SYSTEM HAS INCREASED FROM 1,000 MILES IN 1916 TO 1,000,000 MILES IN 1933. THE NATIONAL HIGHWAY SYSTEM HAS BEEN A MAJOR FACTOR IN THE DEVELOPMENT OF THE COUNTRY AND IN THE IMPROVEMENT OF THE LIVES OF THE PEOPLE.



Approved: _____
Secretary of State

GOVERNMENT PRINTING OFFICE

1933

MESSAGE

To the Congress of the United States:

I transmit herewith a report by the Secretary of State concerning a Pan American Highways Congress, to meet at Buenos Aires on May 22, 1925, in which the participation of the Government of the United States has been invited by the Government of the Argentine Republic. Accompanying the report are copies of letters from the Acting Secretary of Commerce and the Secretary of Agriculture, furnishing information regarding the Congress and urging the importance of participation therein by the United States.

In view of the strength of these representations, and in accordance with the recommendation of the Secretary of State, I request of Congress legislation which will authorize an appropriation of \$15,000 for the expenses of delegates of the United States to the Pan American Congress of Highways, to meet at Buenos Aires on May 22, 1925.

CALVIN COOLIDGE.

The WHITE HOUSE,
Washington, January 24, 1925.

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PAN AMERICAN HIGHWAYS CONGRESS

The PRESIDENT:

On December 29, 1924, the embassy of the Argentine Republic at Washington extended, in the name of that Government, an invitation to the Government of the United States to be represented by delegates at the Pan American Congress of Highways which will meet at Buenos Aires on May 22, 1925.

The invitation was communicated to the Secretary of Commerce and the Secretary of Agriculture for the consideration of their departments. It appears from the reply of the Acting Secretary of Commerce that this conference is "the logical sequence of a broad and constructive effort initiated in the Department of Commerce and carried out by various industrial groups, including the automobile and road machinery manufacturers and the bankers." A copy of this reply, which sets forth the origin and history of the movement, represents its importance in the interests of trade relations between this country and those of Latin America, and states that this Government should by all means send official delegates to the Buenos Aires Conference, is herewith inclosed, as is also a copy of the reply of the Secretary of Agriculture, who states:

I can not urge too strongly that suitable provision be made for the representation of this country at the forthcoming Congress by a commission whose membership should, in my judgment, include those most familiar with the recent advances made by the United States in highway administration, finance, construction, and maintenance and the various phases of highway research.

In view of these representations, the undersigned, the Secretary of State, has the honor to recommend the submission to Congress of a request for legislation authorizing an appropriation of \$15,000 for the expenses of delegates of the United States to the Pan American Congress of Highways to meet at Buenos Aires, Argentine Republic, on May 22, 1925.

A copy of a letter from the Director of the Bureau of the Budget stating that this request is not in conflict with the President's financial policy, is attached.

Respectfully submitted.

CHARLES E. HUGHES

DEPARTMENT OF STATE,
Washington, January 23, 1925.

DEPARTMENT OF COMMERCE,
OFFICE OF THE ASSISTANT SECRETARY,
Washington, January 14, 1925.

The SECRETARY OF STATE,
Washington, D. C.

MY DEAR MR. SECRETARY: I beg to acknowledge receipt of your letter of the 10th instant, in which you state that an invitation has been received from the Argentine Government inviting this Government to send representatives to the Pan American Congress of Highways to be held in Buenos Aires on May 22, 1925, and asking that the invitation be brought to the knowledge of organizations in the United States who may be interested in the subject.

This invitation is the logical sequence of a broad and constructive effort initiated in the Department of Commerce and carried out by various industrial groups, including the automobile and road machinery manufacturers and the bankers, and participated in by officials of the Department of State, the Department of Agriculture, and this department. The idea in the first instance arose from the proposal of the Pan American Union to hold a Pan American highway conference in which the views of this department were sought. It was believed that such a conference would be highly beneficial and that the best and most constructive results would flow therefrom if it were held in this country and participated in by leading road engineers and construction experts representing each of the Pan American States.

To that end this department submitted a plan to representatives of the industries mentioned contemplating that a considerable fund should be raised by those private groups for the purpose of paying the expenses of such delegates. This proposal met with prompt response and acceptance and the result was that delegates from 19 Pan American countries came to the United States at the expense of the industries mentioned and were conducted on a month's tour through 9 States in a close investigation and study of methods of highway construction and motor transport in every phase.

Officials of the Department of State, the Department of Agriculture, and this department participated in various sessions held in Washington, and I believe you are familiar with the purposes and accomplishments of the group which was known as the Pan American Highway Commission. At the conclusion of their trip the delegates from the various Pan American countries, together with those of this country who had participated in the mission, organized the Pan American Confederation of Highway Education Boards, and our Pan American friends returned to their several countries equipped with practical knowledge of a definite character upon which to proceed with the organization of highway education boards in each country as a means toward the stimulation of modern highway development.

It is unquestionably true that the assistance given by this country in such an enterprise is not merely a matter of neighborly interest and friendship but quite properly will result in the long run in great trade stimulation and benefit to this country. Since that time Argentina, Chile, Cuba, Honduras, and Peru have set up such highway education boards, in each case comprised of leading governmental officials of special training and equipment in that line. Elaborate engineering reports have been issued in the other countries based upon the studies made by their delegates to this country and wide publicity has been given to the conference, not only here but in all the Pan American countries that participated, indicating the great interest in those countries in highway development and the impetus given by the enterprising move on the part of our officials and the public-spirited men of the various groups who participated in the mission here.

The purpose of the Pan American Congress of Highways is to again call these men together and with other officials of the twenty-one countries of the Pan American Union to discuss the different practices in highway construction and motor transportation, to exchange

information, and finally to agree upon such phases of highway development as may require international treatment.

Out of the conference held in this country as seen by American observers there grew a genuine spirit of friendliness and cooperation between the delegates of Latin America and those of our people who participated which can not but have a profound influence on our future international relations and a highly beneficial effect in particular on our trade relations. The action of our citizens in bringing the delegates to this country in the first instance was accepted as a tangible evidence of friendship and a desire to give the benefits of our experience to our neighbors of Latin America and the evident ultimate benefit that this country might derive in the way of trade did not in the least detract from the high motives which in the first instance and during the conference prevailed.

A secondary effect of the visit of the Pan American Highway Mission was an appreciation by the visitors that what has been done by the several States in this country is a feasible and possible task for them which may readily and quickly be undertaken and will directly tend toward the improvement of methods of transportation in each of the Latin American States and between the States and the resultant improvement in the standards of living.

The final influence of the Latin American delegation will unquestionably be found in improved trade relations in every direction between the people of this country and of the south. While no effort was made during the trip of the delegates to sell them American products, it was naturally and properly felt that this friendly effort on the part of our people should and would lead to improved trade relations with a consequent greater benefit to the Pan American States therefrom.

The next step in this constructive and practical move toward the improvement of understanding and relations with our friends of the Pan American States will come at the conference at Buenos Aires where a permanent organization will be established looking toward the carrying on in each of these States of the work initiated at the time of the visit of their delegates to this country last year. This work has received, and will continue to receive, the approval and support of this department. It has already clearly demonstrated its value, and I believe our Government should by all means send official delegates as requested by the Argentine Republic.

Very truly yours,

J. WALTER DRAKE,
Acting Secretary of Commerce.

DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE,
Washington, January 22, 1925.

THE SECRETARY OF STATE.

DEAR MR. SECRETARY: I have the honor to acknowledge the receipt of your communication of January 10, File SYS 515, 4 D 1/-, inclosing a translation of a note from the charge d'affaires ad interim of the Argentine Republic, extending the invitation of the Argentine Government to the Government of the United States to be represented at the Pan American Congress of Highways which will be held at Buenos Aires on May 22, 1925.

I shall be glad to bring this invitation, which I regard as of the utmost importance, to the organizations in the United States who

are interested in the subject of the Congress; and I believe it to be highly desirable to designate a representative of this department to the Congress.

You will recall that this country was visited during the last summer by representatives of 19 Latin American Republics constituting the Pan American Highway Commission, which, under the guidance of representatives of this and other departments of the United States Government and officials of the State highway departments, traveled through several States for the purpose of inspecting and studying American methods of highway administration.

The immediate results of that visit in the establishment of friendly relations between the United States and the Latin American Republics through a channel which has not previously been utilized have been so fortunate that I consider a continuance of the cooperative relations to be of the utmost value. As a direct outcome of the visit an international organization, known as the Pan American Confederation of Highway Education Boards, was tentatively formed at Washington for the purpose of providing an agency for the interchange of information with regard to highway improvement and related matters between the American Republics, and, as the coming Congress will afford the first opportunity for the development of that organization, I regard it as especially desirable that the United States Government participate officially.

It is needless to refer to the certain beneficial effects of highway improvement upon the economic development of the Latin American Republics or to the probable increase in trade with the United States which would probably follow. But, to the end that the United States may extend to her sister republics the most practical and valuable assistance in bringing about such desirable improvement, I can not urge too strongly that suitable provision be made for the representation of this country at the forthcoming Congress by a commission whose membership should, in my judgment, include those most familiar with the recent advances made by the United States in highway administration, finance, construction, and maintenance and the various phases of highway research.

Sincerely,

HOWARD M. GORE, *Secretary.*

BUREAU OF THE BUDGET,
Washington.

DEAR MR. SECRETARY: I have your letter of January 19, 1925, inclosing a copy of your proposed report to the President recommending that Congress be requested to authorize an appropriation of \$15,000 for the purpose of participation by the United States by official delegates in the Pan American Congress of Highways, to be held at Buenos Aires, Argentine Republic, on May 22, 1925.

Your proposed recommendation in this matter is not in conflict with the financial program of the President.

Sincerely yours,

H. M. LORD, *Director.*

HON. CHARLES E. HUGHES,
Secretary of State.